

2021 Fishlake Resource Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2021

6:30 pm

Meeting Facilitator: Dan Child, Public Services Staff Officer, US Forest Service
Meeting Chair: Vacant
Meeting Notetaker: Naomi Gordon, Public Affairs Officer, US Forest Service

Location: Virtual +
Sevier County Justice Center
250 N Main Street
Richfield UT 84701

Attendees: (Group A) ShaReece Barney
(Group A) Charlie Irons
(Group A) Scott Gurney
(Group B) Mike Popejoy
(Group B) Rachele Williams
(Group B) Paul Niemeyer
(Group C) Carl Albrecht
(Group C) Chris Reed
(Group C) Candence Peterson
(Group C) Emery Polelonema
Mike Elson, Fishlake Forest Supervisor, US Forest Service
Dan Childs, Public Services Staff Officer, US Forest Service
Naomi Gordon, Public Affairs Officer, US Forest Service
Hayden Ballard, Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office

Absent: (Group C) David Ogden

MEETING

6:35 pm CALL TO ORDER—Dan Child (Temporary—In Lieu of Chairperson)
ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS—Naomi Gordon

- Six of the 14 attendees had served on a RAC previously
- One excused absence—David Ogden

WELCOME—Dan Child

- Virtual Meeting Information
- USDA Rules of Meeting
- Housekeeping Items

OPENING GREETING—Forest Supervisor, Mike Elson

- Thanks and appreciation to all for making it through the long nomination process
- RAC is a great opportunity to interface and he is looking forward to their recommendations
- Appreciation to Dan Child for efforts to get through the bureaucratic processes that it took to reinstate our RAC chapter

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- There were no minutes to approve. The last meeting was 4+ years ago

OLD BUSINESS—Refresher/New Training

- Binder Review
 - 50/50 Clause (Overview>Page #1>Title II)
 - RAC Duties (#1-Review Projects, #2-Make Recommendations, #3-Forest Supervisor Pushes Projects to the USDA)
 - ? —If a project is disapproved, is there a backup project in reserve to use?
 - A —In that case the RAC will reconvene and will consult with the Regional RAC Expert and needed clarifying information
 - ? —How do we prioritize or weigh what is most important?
 - A —The RAC will have to decide how to evaluate and figure out which projects will be worth providing for and how the RAC would like to approach approvals
- Roles & Responsibilities—Ethics
 - Ethics statement read
 - The Designated Federal Official (DFO) to help the RAC is Dan Child
- Membership
 - Current membership is thin, every person is valuable and needed to be able to have a quorum and hold an official vote
 - Majority vs. 3-Category Quorum
 - Members Duties (Overview>Page #4>Slide #19)
 - Travel/Per Diem (Overview>Page #4>Slide #22)
 - Maintaining Public Records (Overview>Page #4>Slide #23)
 - ACTION ITEM: Naomi will take notes and publish online and share with the County Commissioners
- Meeting Guidelines
 - Reviewed Operating Guidelines Tab
 - Deadlines for RAC Recommendations are Sept. 2023
 - Funds need to be obligated by contract or agreement by deadline
 - Project does not need to be completed by then, just obligated
- Charter
 - Written for all RACs across the country
 - Page #1> #4-Everything we do is transparent and open to the public for review
 - Page #3> #7-RAC members are not compensated, though they can vote to receive travel and per diem
 - Page #4> #9-RAC can meet as often as necessary
 - Page #5> #12c-A Co-Chair may be assigned
 - ? —Will congress approve funds every year?
 - A —We hope so, but it is not set in stone. There is no guarantee this program will be here year to year

? —If more funds are appropriated, when would we find out about them?

A —Probably sometime around June. In 2020 our RAC received \$97, 217. Added to the previous years not spent, we have \$402,661 overall to allocate

? —Is it normal to let the account build up? What happens if there is an emergency and a road needs to be repaired immediately?

A —If there is an emergency, the Forest Service staff will use appropriated funds for forest management to fix it. Moving forward, the RAC needs two things: 1. Annual Funding and 2. An active RAC to review/recommend projects. This year the Secretary of Agriculture extended our appointments so we can now have meetings. About half of your terms will expire in 2022, the other half is 2024. (Term dates are in the binder under the Members tab.)

7:54 p.m.

BREAK

NEW BUSINESS

- Elect Chairperson (non-compensated position)
 - Floor open for nominations by Dan Child
 - Carl nominated ShaReece, Scott Seconded (Emery Thirded)
 - ShaReece nominated Emery, No Second
 - Emery declined the nomination
 - Despite her hesitation over lack of knowledge, ShaReece agreed that she would serve as Chairman this year if she was voted in
 - Unanimous vote to elect ShaReece as the new RAC Chairperson @ 8:01 p.m.
 - Chairperson requests DFO to proceed as facilitator through the rest of this first meeting @ 8:02 p.m.
- Project Evaluation Process
 - Have 22 projects to evaluate totaling \$702,214, only have \$402,661 to allocate
 - Project summary—10 Fremont River, 7 Richfield Area, 2 Beaver Area, 3 Hybrids
 - Discussion over whether proponents should be allowed time to answer questions in person or not ensued (voted on later in the meeting)
 - 50/50 rule along with Watershed discussion
 - Emery digitized the evaluation form in Microsoft Excel. ACTION ITEM—Naomi will clear the form and email to the RAC members

? —Is a Trail a Road?

A—Some trails on the forest are Maintenance Level II roads. ACTION ITEM—Dan will take time to delineate which projects are considered roads and stream/watershed restoration projects (to fulfill the 50/50 rule)

? —Can the money be combined with other grants?

A —Yes

? —Does that apply to water restoration funds with the state?

A —Yes

- Vote needed to decide how the next meeting should proceed

- Option #1—The proponents are invited to be present and available to answer questions if needed
- Option #2—RAC will convene without the proponents in attendance to collectively decide which projects they want to hear from at the following meeting (date undetermined)
- Roll Call Vote @ 8:23
 - Option #1—Paul, Rachelle, Candence
 - Option #2—ShaReece, Scott, Mike, Carl, Chris, Charlie, Emery
 - Option #2 passed with a 7/3 vote @ 8:26

? —One of the projects calls for a Youth Conservation Corps, do we have one?

A —No, I believe he wants to make one and that is part of the proposal

- Project Disqualification Parameters
 - Things like too many of one type of project, forms not filled out correctly and any issues that give you pause can be disqualifiers if the RAC decides
 - Disqualification parameters will be added to next weeks' agenda **ACTION ITEM—Naomi will add this to the next agenda**
- Emery motioned to adjourn the meeting; Chris seconded
 - ShaReece called for a vote-unanimous to adjourn

8:35 p.m. ADJOURN

Minutes Accepted On: _____

ShaReece Barney:
RAC Chairman

ShaReece Barney

Dan Child:
RAC Designated Federal Official

Dan Child

Naomi LeGere-Gordon:
RAC Notetaker

Naomi LeGere-Gordon